AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery system consisting of one or more compartments and comprising a progestogenic compound dissolved in a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer whereby,
- if the delivery system consists of one compartment, the compartment comprises
(i) a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer comprising the progestogenic compound, the progestogenic compound being dissolved in the polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer ~~up to~~ at a concentration below the saturation level at 25° C, and an estrogenic compound; and
(ii) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, the skin being permeable for both compounds;
- if the delivery system consists of more than one compartment, only one compartment comprises
(iii) the progestogenic compound, the progestogenic compound being dissolved in a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer ~~up to~~ at a concentration below the saturation level at 25°C, and an estrogenic compound; and
(iv) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, the skin being permeable for both compounds
wherein the drug delivery system is physically stable when stored at or above room temperature.

2. (Original) A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the progestogenic compound is a steroidal progestogenic compound and/or the estrogenic compound is a steroidal estrogenic compound.

3. (Previously Presented) A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer of the core is a copolymer containing 30 to 50 wt% vinylacetate.

4. (Currrently Amended) A drug delivery system consisting of one or more compartments and comprising a progestogenic compound dissolved in a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer whereby,
- if the delivery system consists of one compartment, the compartment comprises
(i) a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer, the copolymer containing 30 to 50 wt% vinylacetate, and the core comprising a progestogenic compound, the progestogenic compound being dissolved in the polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer ~~up to~~ at a concentration below the saturation level at 25°C, and an estrogenic compound; and
(ii) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, the copolymer containing 1 to 15 wt% vinylacetate, the skin being permeable for both compounds, and the skin having a thickness in the range of 10 to 110 μm;
- if the delivery system consists of more than one compartment, only one compartment comprises
(iii) the progestogenic compound, the progestogenic compound being dissolved in a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer ~~up to~~ at a concentration below the saturation level at 25°C, the copolymer containing 30 to 50 wt% vinylacetate, and an estrogenic compound; and
(iv) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, the copolymer containing 1 to 15 wt% vinylacetate, the skin being permeable for both compounds,and the skin having a thickness in the range of 10 to 110 μm
wherein the drug delivery system is physically stable when stored at or above room temperature.

5. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery system consisting of one or more compartments and comprising a progestogenic compound dissolved in a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer whereby,
- if the delivery system consists of one compartment, the compartment comprises
(i) a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer, the copolymer containing 30 to 50 wt% vinylacetate, and the core comprising a progestogenic compound, the progestogenic compound being dissolved in the polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer ~~up to~~ at a concentration below the saturation level at 25°C, and an estrogenic compound; and
(ii) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, the copolymer containing 14 to 28 wt% vinylacetate, the skin being permeable for both compounds, and the skin having a thickness of 70 to 250 μm;
- if the delivery system consists of more than one compartment, only one compartment comprises
(iii) the progestogenic compound, the progestogenic compound being dissolved in a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer ~~up to~~ at a concentration below the saturation level at 25°C, the copolymer containing 30 to 50 wt% vinylacetate, and an estrogenic compound; and
(iv) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, the copolymer containing 14 to 28 wt% vinylacetate, the skin being permeable for both compounds, and the skin having a thickness of 70 to 250 μm wherein the drug delivery system is physically stable when stored at or above room temperature.

6. (Previously Presented) A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the progestogenic compound is etonogestrel.

7. (Previously Presented) A drug delivery system according to claim 6 wherein the release on day 21 of etonogestrel of the drug delivery system is 80 μg / day or more.

8. (Previously Presented) A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the estrogenic compound is ethinyl estradiol.

9. (Previously Presented) A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the system is ring-shaped.

10. (Previously Presented) A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the drug delivery system consists of one compartment.

11. (Previously Presented) A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the drug delivery system is a drug delivery system for intravaginal use.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a drug delivery system according to claim 9 comprising the steps of:
(i) producing a medicated homogenous polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer core granulate, comprising a progestogenic and an estrogenic compound;
(ii) co-extruding the core granulate with a polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer skin granulate, resulting in a copolymer fiber comprising a core covered by a skin; and
(iii) assembling the fibre into a ring.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the core granulate in step (i) is lubricated with a lubricant.

15. (Previously Presented) A contraceptive kit or kit for hormone-replacement therapy comprising the drug delivery system according to claim 1.

16. (Previously Presented) A combination preparation to provide contraception whilst simultaneously to treat a sexually transmitted disease comprising the drug delivery system according to claim 1.

17 - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of contraception in a female patient, the method comprising:

(a) positioning a drug delivery system of claim 1 within the vaginal tract of the patient; and

(b) retaining the system within the vaginal tract for ~~at least~~ approximately 21 days.